

A NEW SPECIES OF *NEOBAPHION* BLAISDELL, FROM IDAHO
(COLEOPTERA: TENEBRIONIDAE)

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Abstract.—*Neobaphion alleni*, a new species from Idaho, is described and illustrated. *Elcodes (Metablapyllis) insolitus* Doyen is made a synonym of *Neobaphion papula* Triplehorn and Aalbu.

Key Words: Tenebrionidae, Darkling Beetle, *Neobaphion*

For almost 50 years the genus *Neobaphion* consisted of only two species, *N. planipenne* (LeConte 1866) and *N. elongatum* Blaisdell (1933). In 1985, a third species, *N. papula* Triplehorn and Aalbu was described. The following new species was discovered only a few months after the description of *N. papula* was published:

Neobaphion alleni, NEW SPECIES

Fig. 1

Holotype, female: Length: 15.2 mm; width: 7.0 mm. Body stout, subopaque, black.

Head subquadrate, $\frac{5}{7}$ as long as broad, flattened; clypeal suture entire but weakly defined, epistomal margin truncate; surface dull with numerous fine, rounded tubercles, each bearing a short, dark colored seta apically; eyes narrowly reniform with dorsal lobe larger, more rounded than ventral lobe; antennae short, stout, apical 6 segments moniliform; relative lengths of antennal segments (from base to apex): 10:4:18:10:9:8:8:8:8:9:10.

Pronotum $\frac{5}{8}$ as long as broad, broadest in anterior half, with a faint transverse crease in basal fifth; in dorsal view, lateral margin strongly arcuate and distinctly explanate, especially medially, marginal bead narrow and finely denticulate from base to apex;

anterior margin broadly and evenly concave from side to side, angles acute, prominent; base nearly straight, angles obtuse; disc feebly convex, surface with tubercles similar to those of head but larger, shiny, densely and uniformly distributed, each with a short, brownish seta originating on caudal side.

Scutellum triangular, acute caudally, finely sculptured.

Elytra moderately convex from side to side, lateral margins subparallel, widest behind middle, abruptly deflexed posteriorly with pronounced caudal lobe; base slightly concave with humeri obsolete; surface with dense conspicuous shiny tubercles on disc similar to those of pronotum and with larger, denser and more spiculiferous tubercles laterally, each with a short, pale seta directed caudad.

Legs moderate in size, finely, densely, muricately punctate; profemur slightly emarginate subapically; protibial spurs about equal in size; basal protarsomere with dense tuft of golden setae interrupting plantar groove.

Ventral surface alutaceous with coarse, dense tubercles on hypomera and prosternum and basal 4 abdominal sterna, less coarse but equally dense on meso- and metasterna, with smaller and scarcely evident tubercles on apical sternum; prosternal



Fig. 1. Adult *Neobaphion alleni* n.sp. 6.7×.

process acute, horizontal. Genital segment with coxites fused, coxites 1 and 2 triangular in outline and concave ventrally, convex dorsally, coxite acute apically; gonostyle minute with single long apical seta.

Allotype, male: Similar to female but slightly smaller and more slender; Length: 13.0 mm; width: 5.7 mm.

Variation.—There is little variation among the five specimens available. The allotype male is the smallest and the paratype from Oregon is the largest (L: 17.8 mm; W: 7.8 mm).

Diagnosis.—*Neobaphion alleni* closely

resembles *N. papula* and will run to that species in our key (Triplehorn and Aalbu 1985, p. 591). It may be readily separated from the latter by the explanate lateral margins of the pronotum and the lack of an elytral sutural "keel." In addition, the subapical emargination of the profemur, scarcely evident in *N. alleni*, is very pronounced in both sexes of *N. papula*. The genitalia of both sexes appear identical in the two species.

Types.—*Holotype, female*: IDAHO: Owyhee County, Brunneau Dunes, 14 April 1986. Albert Allen; *allotype male*, same lo-

cality, 18 May 1986, Albert and Kip Allen; *paratypes*: female, same locality, 13 May 1986, Albert Allen; (probably male), IDAHO, Ada County, 14 miles S. of Kuna, 15 April 1978, R.C. Biggam; female, OREGON [Malheur County], 32 miles SW of Vale, Twin Springs, 2 April 1969, Kenneth Goeden. Holotype in California Academy of Sciences, allotype in personal collection of Albert Allen, *paratypes* in University of Idaho, The Ohio State University and Oregon Department of Agriculture Collections.

Etymology.—I take pleasure in naming this species for Albert Allen who sent me the first specimen, made special efforts to collect more, and provided valuable ecological data.

Discussion.—Albert Allen has provided interesting collection data on the three specimens he captured. All were dug from rodent burrows (probably kangaroo rat) at the base of sagebrush plants on sand dunes by Mr. Allen and his son Kip. One was found along with two specimens of *Eleodes armatus* LeConte and one in company with *E. longipilosus* Horn, a common species on Brunneau Dunes. Mr. Allen has collected intensively in those dunes over 10 years but had never encountered this *Neobaphion* un-

til 1986. Despite diligent efforts by the Allens, they obtained only two more specimens. Obviously, it is a rare beetle or it has been overlooked by individuals using conventional collecting techniques.

It seems appropriate at this time to point out an unusual circumstance involving synonymy in *Neobaphion*. In 1985, Doyen (p. 230) described *Eleodes (Metablapylis) insolitus* from Esmeralda County, Nevada. Also, in 1985, our paper (Triplehorn and Aalbu), describing *Neobaphion papula*, from Mineral County, Nevada, was published. The journals in which the two descriptions appeared were both mailed on 11 July 1985, thus constituting simultaneous publication. As the next reviser (this paper) I arbitrarily select *Neobaphion papula* Triplehorn and Aalbu as the valid name and am placing *Eleodes insolitus* Doyen as a synonym of it.

Literature Cited

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